

Excellence in Environmental Education from the Mountains to the Sea

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GET INTO THIS PICTURE! JOIN NHEE AT THE 2009 NEEEA CONFERENCE IN CONNECTICUT!

NHEE Members enjoying the New Hampshire state reception at the recent 2008 NEEEA conference.

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Hubbard Brook Research Foundation



Hands-on experimentation is an integral part of the foundations workshops. In this picture teachers are experimenting with the buffering effects of soils when using varying pH levels in the water they are pouring through the soils. This workshop was held by HBRF at its Mirror Lake campus, October 2007. (Image courtesy of HBRF)

Calendar:

- **SAVE THE DATE:** NHEE Annual Conference **March 11th, 2009**
- **SAVE THE DATE:** New England Environmental Education Alliance Conference in CT: **Sept 23-25, 2009.**
- **November 13** NH-PLT Annual Reception: "A View From the Canopy - Coming Together for the Common Good", in Plymouth. For more info see www.nhplt.org
- **November 13** Business Plan Preparation in Not-for-profit Organizations workshop 10am-4pm; for more information visit www.neeea.org
- **November 15** America Recycles Day

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Audrey and Jessica would like to welcome you back to the NH Environmental Educators (NHEE) newsletter. Our newsletter has been missing in action for a while, but NHEE certainly hasn't. The NHEE Board would love to have your input on this quarterly newsletter. If you have any suggestions for our next issue please contact Audrey Eisenhauer at (603) 236-3308 or audrey@reycenter.org or Jessica Morton at (603) 706-0291 or jessica.morton@des.nh.gov <<mailto:jessica.morton@des.nh.gov>> . We are always interested in hearing from NHEE members.

Audrey and Jessica became co-presidents of NHEE at the 2007 NHEE annual conference. They are both excited to be working together to help NHEE serve your needs as an environmental educator. Here are some insights into your co-presidents!

Audrey Eisenhauer and her husband Brian moved to NH in 2003 from Logan, Utah where she completed a MS degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Education at Utah State University. From 2003-2007, Audrey worked as the Volunteer Coordinator at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness, NH. Audrey currently serves as the Education Director at the Margret and H.A. Rey Center <<http://reycenter.org/>> in Waterville Valley, NH. The Rey Center honors the legacy of the Reys, former summer residents of Waterville Valley, NH and authors of the Curious George children's books, by offering programs in art, science and adventure for all ages. In her current position, Audrey teaches programs in science, gardening, astronomy and art for youth and families as well as coordinates the Rey Center's complete program schedule including lectures, performances, astronomy nights, natural history Walk-Talks, and special events. In addition to her work, Audrey enjoys exploring NH's mountains with her husband Brian and their dog Moose.

Jessica Morton has worked at the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) for seven years. From 2004-2007 she worked as the state's Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) coordinator. In November of 2007, Jessica switched positions at the department and moved into the Air Resources Division as an indoor air quality specialist. As the IAQ specialist Jessica works with schools on addressing any problems they may have with indoor air quality. When Jessica isn't working she enjoys hiking, reading, and spending quality time with her family.

Recently, NHEE members have been working diligently on the 2008 New England Environmental Education Alliance (NEEEA) conference, which was held October 3-5 at the Boston University Sargent Center in Hancock, NH. Thanks to the amazing work of our co-chairs, Marilyn Wyzga and Beth Lesure, the event was very successful. Also, many thanks to the following NHEE members: Karen Acerno, Karen Burnett-Kurie, Alicia Carlson, Nicole Clegg, Susan Cox, Audrey Eisenhauer, Scott Fitzpatrick, Carol Foley, Margaret Gillespie, Mary Goodyear, Jen Hargrave, Erin Hollingsworth, Deb Kimball, Lori Jean Kinsey, Vicky LaForet, Clare Long, Jessica Morton, Kathleen Neville, Beth Roy, Wendy Schorr, Judy Silverberg, Ruth Smith, Jan Woodbury, and Amy Yeakel for their assistance before, during, and after the conference. Everything went so much smoother with all of you! Great teamwork everyone! For more information on the conference please visit: www.neeea.org/conference <<http://www.neeea.org/conference>> .

While the NHEE board has been busy over the last several months planning for the NEEEA conference, they have also been hard at work on other important issues and goals for NHEE. Over the next year, the board plans to increase the services we provide for our members. Bringing back this newsletter is one example of this initiative. We also have several programs in the works that you will hear about via the NHEE list serve once all the details are settled. As a board, we want to be sure that your membership in NHEE is valuable to you; providing direct services to our members through communications and workshops is one way we can achieve this. The NHEE board has also begun the planning for the NHEE Annual Conference to be held on March 11, 2009 (again, more details coming soon!). Please let us know what services we can provide that would help you succeed in your work as an environmental educator. Another important goal of the NHEE board for the coming year is to keep our members apprised of national and state EE initiatives such as Leave No Child Inside and the Children and Nature Network. Through articles such as the one in this newsletter and communications via the list serve, we hope to keep you informed of these important initiatives and also help to keep NH involved in environmental education on a national level.

We invite your participation in any of these initiatives by sharing your ideas with any NHEE board member, or by joining the board! The NHEE board is in transition; a few of our board members have needed to step down from the board. We are in need of new board members! Board members are very important to any group and NHEE is no different. The NHEE board members meet on the first Wednesday of every month from 6:30-8:30 pm in Concord. We are also trying conference calls instead of meeting in person on an every other month basis. We ask board members to participate by bringing their expertise of EE to the table. Some board members host and offer educational trainings to our members while others work on our newsletter or our annual conference. We ask for a minimum of 4 hours a month for a time commitment. Just imagine all the great work you could do on the NHEE board! If you are interested or know someone who might be in attending a board meeting to see what it is all about please let Audrey or Jess know.

Thank you to our outgoing board members Jan Woodbury and Erik Froburg for all their hard work and dedication to the board. **We also need to especially thank Susan Cox our board's past president.** Susan has stayed on the board for the last year to help Audrey and Jess adjust to being presidents. Thank-you Susan for your support, your lent ear, and all the time and energy you have contributed to NHEE.

Wishing you warm holiday wishes from your fellow presidents

Audrey Eisenhauer and Jessica Morton

NHEE Launches E-News

In the continued effort to provide members with access to environmental education resources, networking opportunities and employment information in a way that is environmentally sustainable, NHEE is launching a new electronic newsletter. NHEE **E-News** is a quarterly digital publication. Look to each issue to provide informative articles, upcoming conference and workshop information, and current news regarding trends in environmental education in New Hampshire and throughout New England and the world.

NHEE **E-News** invites all members and partners to contribute articles, notification of upcoming workshops and conferences, photographs, job listings, and environmental education resource recommendations.

Deadlines for submission of newsletter materials are: October 15th-winter issue, January 15th-spring issue, April 15th-summer issue, and July 15th-fall issue.

Update on the New Hampshire Children in Nature Coalition

By Dr. Judith Silverberg PhD, NHFG

If you have been wondering what's happening since the No Child Left Inside forum held last November here's the latest. The New Hampshire Children in Nature Coalition (NHCINC) is the result of people coming together for the purposes of expanding opportunities for, increasing access to and encouraging children's participation in outdoor, nature-based



Image courtesy of Cincinnati Nature Center

activities that are creative, environmentally friendly, involve physical activity and help children expand the use of all their senses. Everyone is welcome to be a part of the Coalition. Members agree to join forces, collaborate and network to achieve the work of the coalition.

During the past year, many NHEE members and others have helped the organization move rapidly forward to establish the purpose and direction of the coalition. Several task teams formed including: 1) Mission and Goals Development Committee; 2) Messaging, Audiences and Communication Committee; 3) Organizational Development Committee (to develop the collaborative leadership structure of the organization); and 4) Natural Leaders Committee (its first project concept committee)

Each of the committees has produced significant work to date. The Messaging, Audiences, and Communications (MAC) Committee has produced a communications plan including explanations of several of the sub-components of the plan. The Mission and Goals Development Committee has laboriously developed a problem statement, a mission statement, goals, objectives for each goal and suggested activities.

The Organizational Development Committee has designed the governance body, rules of engagement and operating structure for NHCINC. Subsequently, this committee is working to recruit additional members for this leadership group including a representative from each NHCINC committee as well as representatives from each of the identified stakeholder sectors: education, health, the built environment, recreation, environmental concerns, business, media, and culture/arts.

In addition the group has written a grant to help support the further development of the coalition, the development of messaging and marketing materials and to host another statewide gathering next year. There is lots of room for involvement and opportunity to help kids and families connect with the outdoors. If you are interested in becoming actively involved in any of these committees or working groups, or just staying up to date by joining the NHCINC list serve, contact Marilyn Wyzga at marilyn.wyzga@wildlife.nh.gov.

Or check out the website at www.nhchildreninnature.org

Jobs Board:

Job opportunities in EE will be listed on a regular basis in NHEE *E-News*. Employers - if your agency, school, or organization is looking to employ an EE professional please consider placing your position announcement with NHEE *E-News*. This space is reserved for you!

EE Resources: *Applied Environmental Education and Communication: an International Journal*

This journal, edited by Brian Day, brings together research and practice to help find real world solutions to challenges in environmental education.

Special society subscription rates for members of NAAEE. Go to <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/1533015X> to view an online sample.

We Journey Home to Community at NEEEA 08

By Marilyn Wyzga, Conference Co-Chair

On the crisp and colorful first weekend of October, 150 people from around the region congregated at the BU Sargent Center in Hancock, NH. For three short days we formed a community around shared interests at the New England Environmental Education Alliance conference. This event comes around once a year, and is a rare opportunity for us to gather, convene and commune with our fellow educators and others in the environmental field to share ideas and inspire new ones. It's clear from evaluations that folks are drawn by a desire to network, and we provided many opportunities: from an impressive array of practical and unique workshop sessions, to paddling on the lake, explorations of the Monadnock region peaks, waters, and woods, and brand new "Sunday in the field" experiences, which were especially well received. These sessions allowed participants to sample several ecologically centered communities around the Monadnock area.

Both our keynote speakers, Rebecca Rule and Gibran Rivera, brought the audience to their feet-Becky, for her gift of home-grown humor, and Gibran for his insights into how we might collaborate across boundaries. The community theme wove through the weekend with the community art project-a collective crafting of felted healing blanket-beginning Friday evening and concluding with the closing ceremony on Sunday. Also woven throughout the weekend were gatherings of music makers, conversations on the porches, and folks walking solo or in groups along the woodland paths. Some tried their feet at swing dancing to Daddios, while others opted to gather in the field and gaze on a brilliant night sky with the NH Astronomical Society; while being serenaded by the distant tunes from that 10-piece orchestra.

One participant remarked, "There is something different and special when New Hampshire hosts this conference-you bring more depth to it." We appreciate all that went into making this conference so well received, from the very first ideas in our first brainstorm meeting in November 2006, all the way through planning and working through the weekend. Thank you to all of the conference committee folks whose creativity, energy, and hard work made this weekend a reality. Serving on a conference committee can do several things-allow you to hone skills you have, or help you to develop new skills you never knew you needed. And when all is said and done, it is also fun, so we hope to see more of you joining in when New Hampshire hosts again in 2014.

To learn more about the content of the NEEEA 08 keynote address given by Gibran Rivera, visit the Interaction Institute for Social Change website at www.interactioninstitute.org



2008 NEEEA Award Winners: (left to right) Katherine Bennett, winner of the **Formal Environmental Educator Award**; NEEEA Awards Committee Representative, Tamara Whitmore; and **Maria Pirie Environmental Program Award** winner Ashuelot Valley Environmental Observatory (AVEO), David Moon, Executive Director



NHEE Board members welcome 2008 conference attendees! Have we found OZ yet?



2008 **Richard Haley Memorial Scholarship** winner, and NHEE Co-President, Audrey Eisenhauer. Audrey will utilize the scholarship funds to attend a Project Seasons workshop at Shelburne Farms in Shelburne, Vermont.

Organizational

Spotlight: **The Hubbard Brook Research Foundation (HBRF)**



Geoff Wilson, HBRF Undergraduate Research Coordinator, giving a tour to teachers at HBRF/NHSTA workshop, Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, October 2007.

By Jackie Wilson, HBRF

The [Hubbard Brook Research Foundation](#) (HBRF) is a non-profit organization that works to promote the understanding and stewardship of ecosystems by sustaining and enhancing the Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study, which is centered on the 7,600 acre Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest located in Woodstock, NH.

The Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest lies within the White Mountain National Forest in central New Hampshire and was set aside by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service in 1955 for the long-term study of forest and aquatic ecosystems. Nearly half a century's worth of samples and data from the HBEF represents a treasure trove for scientists seeking to understand the long-term changes that occur to forests. In the early 1960's, researchers from the U.S.D.A. Forest Service and Dartmouth College began doing long-term ecological research at the forest, which led to the establishment of the [Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study](#) (HBES).

The Study employs the "small watershed approach" to understanding ecosystems. To date, five whole watershed experiments have been conducted. Over the years, the study has involved researchers from dozens of universities, government agencies, and other institutions representing a wide range of disciplines, from botany to geochemistry, limnology to avian biology. A full description of ongoing studies can be found at www.hubbardbrook.org.

Members of the HBRF education team, Mary Ann McGarry (education director) and Jackie Wilson (education associate) were really pleased to meet many NHEE members at the NEEEA conference in early October. We were inspired by the motivation and enthusiasm of the formal and informal educators we met there, and we felt honored to share two of our teaching guides: [Exploring Acid Rain](#) and [Mystery Migratory Birds of NH](#). The development and distribution of these teaching guides resulted from a partnership that we have with the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, called the Environmental Literacy Program (ELP).

The goal of the ELP is to foster a society where individual and collective decisions are informed by a working knowledge of ecosystem functioning.

One way to do this is to facilitate the transfer of scientific knowledge from researcher to teacher. We do this in three ways:

We **develop curriculum** that helps secondary educators teach complex ecological concepts through classroom activities and outdoor student fieldwork. Our guides contain slideshows, lessons, fieldwork protocols (measuring rainwater and soil pH, for example), and ideas for student research. We align the lessons in our guides with the New Hampshire Science Frameworks.

We offer **teacher professional development** by hosting workshops at Hubbard Brook (and also at Plymouth State University), and also through conferences like NEEEA, NHSTA and local teacher professional development days. This past spring we also hosted a Neotropical Migratory Bird Symposium at PSU, where six preeminent avian researchers presented talks to an audience of 100 formal and informal educators.

We work with interested **local schools** to help teachers design activities appropriate to different science subject areas that use HBES data, to provide support and assistance for student fieldwork, and to give customized tours of the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in Woodstock, New Hampshire. (Tours are usually given by Geoff Wilson, Undergraduate Research Coordinator.)

In addition to the ELP program, HBRF promotes the understanding and stewardship of ecosystems through our Science Links™ program. To help bridge the gap between science and public policy, HBRF publishes [Science Links™](#) reports that synthesize major research findings of the Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study. This unique approach utilizes long-term ecological research from the HBES and other sites to frame specific issues threatening our environment, and translate the complex science to reach policy makers, decision leaders, and the public, with the goal of positively impacting the debate at the national and state level. We have published three reports to date: *Acid Rain Revisited*; *Nitrogen Pollution: From the Sources to the Sea*; and *Mercury Matters*. A fourth, dealing with *carbon budgeting and mitigation strategies on a county-wide scale*, is due out within the next year.

If you would like more information on HBRF education programs, contact Jackie Wilson (jwilson@hbresearchfoundation.org) or visit the [Education and Outreach](#) page of the HBRF website.

Membership in NHEE—an Explanation

By Ruth Smith, NHEE Board

New Hampshire Environmental Educators (NHEE) is the state professional organization for people working in environmental education. NHEE is dedicated to promoting and supporting environmental education in New Hampshire and providing professional support to members. NHEE provides members with current information about important EE issues, programming, and resources; sponsors professional development programs and workshops; hosts the New England Environmental Education Alliance regional conference every six years; affiliates with the North American Association for environmental Education for professional development opportunities; and works to build EE capacity in NH.

So who should join and what are the benefits of membership? Anyone who is doing or interested in EE may join and benefit from involvement in NHEE. This includes environmental and conservation educators, teachers, higher education faculty, students, administrators, youth group leaders, organizations and others. Membership provides the following benefits:

- Opportunity to network with teachers, EE professionals, students and other NHEE members
- NHEE List serve where members can receive and post information about professional development, grant and job opportunities, EE programs, NHEE happenings and latest EE information, as well as participate in forums
- NHEE newsletter
- Semi-annual EE workshops, roundtables and meetings
- Discount on NHEE workshops and programs
- Discount on registration for the annual New England Environmental Education Alliance conference (www.neeea.org)
- Opportunity to share your skills by assisting with NHEE events
- Access to North American Association for Environmental Education Resources and Information www.naaee.org

There are three different levels of membership, to meet various needs.

1 Student membership: must be currently enrolled in an institution of higher learning (full or part time), working toward a degree or certificate. The degree does not have to be in environmental education or related work. (\$15/year)

2 Individual members are just that, any individual person who wishes to be part of the professional association. (\$30/year)

3 Organizational memberships apply to institutions that are conducting or support EE. (\$55/year)

Specific benefits:

1 Student—all the benefits of an individual membership.

2 Individual—benefits as listed above for the person named, including a link from the NHEE website to that person's organizational website (if desired).

3 Organizational—membership benefits for two staff members from the same organization (the name of both people must be provided) and a link from the NHEE website to that organizations website. Organizations may have multiple memberships but only 2 people/membership receive discounts and benefits.

We are in the process of updating our membership list. If you have not paid your annual dues this year or wish to check the status of your membership please contact Audrey Eisenhauer at Audrey@reycenter.org or 603-236-3308. If you know of someone who would benefit from participation in NHEE, please share this information.

More NEEEA 08 Conference Images:



NEEEA 08 conferees enjoy music making, networking, and art creation with a purpose as they crafted healing blankets for the Earth. Workshop session breaks included swing dancing and loads of family oriented fun!



Visit us on the web at <http://www.nhee.org>

If you have questions or comments contact the Newsletter Editor at acerno@earthlink.net